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THE FOUNDING, DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENT TASKS OF THE VIET NAM PEOPLE'S ARMY

— Interview granted by General VO NGUYEN GIAP to the review
Militarwesen of the German Democratic Republic —

QUESTION 1:

WHAT was the national and international context of the founding of the Viet Nam People's Army?

ANSWER:

THE Viet Nam people's armed forces came into being as the result of the firm, sound and creative leadership of the Viet Nam Workers' Party headed by President Ho Chi Minh. It was linked with the successful development of the Vietnamese Revolution in the context of the unceasing development of the world revolutionary movement.

Our nation, endowed with a long and glorious history, has acquired in the course of its thousands of years of construction and combat, traditions of unyielding resistance to foreign aggressors of all denominations. More recently, during the past eighty years of the French imperialists' domination, the Vietnamese people, unaided by terror and repression of utmost barbarity, rose up incessantly against the aggressors and their lackeys.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, especially since the victory of the Great October Revolution in

Russia which ushered in a new era in mankind's history, the Vietnamese Revolution has witnessed new developments. It was Comrade Ho Chi Minh himself, our leader of genius, the great patriot of the Vietnamese nation, who blazed the trail for our entire country with the light of Marxism-Leninism and founded our Party, thereby most decisively making possible all subsequent successes of the Vietnamese Revolution.

As early as 1930, the very year of its birth, our Party already laid down the judicious line for the Vietnamese Revolution: to carry out national democratic revolution and then socialist revolution, by-passing the stage of capitalist development. Having grasped the Marxist-Leninist theory of violent revolution, it pointed out the only correct revolutionary method to remove the yoke of the imperialists and the feudalists in their pay, as well as the necessity of opposing revolutionary violence to counter-revolutionary violence and wrest back power. Implementing these lines and directives, our Party took, right in its early days, important decisions concerning the founding of "worker-peasant self-defence groups", the "worker-peasant army", then the "Red Army of the worker-peasant self-defence groups".

In the revolutionary tide sweep-

ing the whole country in the years 1930-1931 climaxing in the establishment of the Nghe-Tinh Soviet (Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces -Ed.), self-defence groups of workers and peasants were set up with the participation of elite elements full of revolutionary zeal and bravery, chosen from among members of the workers and peasants' association and the Young Communists' League, etc. These red self-defence formations were just the first seeds of the revolutionary armed forces of our people.

During the years of the Second World War, whilst the Soviet people and the other peoples in the world united to resist the German, Italian and Japanese fascists, a powerful revolutionary drive was launched in our country to overthrow the French colonialists and drive out the Japanese fascists. In face of the rapid evolution of the international and internal situation, in order to put into effect the Party's revolutionary line, preparations for an armed insurrection became a pressing task. Our Party switched from the political struggle to the armed struggle, from the political mass organisation to the building of semi-armed and armed organisations and the building of revolutionary bases.

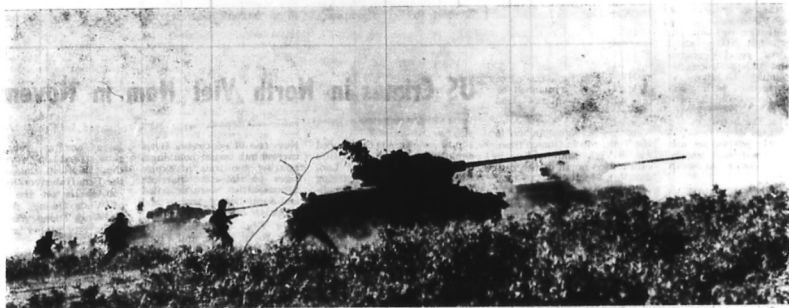
Thus, the first revolutionary

armed organisations of the Vietnamese people came into being one after another: the guerrilla detachment of Bac Son (1940), the guerrilla detachment for the Cochinchina Insurrection (1940), units of the National Salvation Army (1941), the propaganda detachment of the Viet Nam Liberation Army (1944), the guerrilla detachment of Ba To (1945), etc. December 22, 1944, date of the founding of the propaganda detachment of the Viet Nam Liberation Army on direct instructions from Comrade Ho Chi Minh, is regarded as the founding day of the Viet Nam People's Army.

In March 1945, the Japanese fascists succeeded through a coup de force in ousting the French colonialists and seizing the whole Indochinese peninsula for themselves. The struggle of our people against Japanese occupation, for national salvation, vigorously developed throughout the country, inflicting heavier and heavier losses on the enemy. From North to South, in the upsurge of the efforts against the Japanese fascists, the people's revolutionary organisations, guerrilla detachments and anti-Japanese bases multiplied quickly. Anti-Japanese guerrilla was active everywhere.

(Continued page 4)

A manoeuvre of the Viet Nam People's Army



25th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIET NAM PEOPLE'S ARMY

Dec. 22, 1944
Dec. 22, 1969

At the 47th session of the Paris Conference, Ambassador Ha Van Lau on behalf of the DRVN government delegation, severely criticized President Nixon's speech on Dec. 15, 1969. He pointed out that speech only restated policy outlined in Mr. Nixon's speech on Nov. 3, 1969, for the imposition of neo-colonialism on South Vietnam through a "Vietnamization of the war" and negotiation from a "position of strength." Mr. Nixon's speech on Vietnamization of the war which he claimed would bring a just peace in Vietnam is essentially a plan to continue and prolong the war. In his December 15 speech, the US President moreover uttered unveiled threats against the Vietnamese people. Mr. Ha Van Lau pointed out that these intimations could never shake the determination of the Vietnamese people who have distinguished

47th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Dec. 18, 1969)

MR HA VAN LAU SEVERELY SCORES THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S WAR-LIKE POLICY

themselves in the course of their long history by their successful resistance to various foreign invasions and who have not been successfully lured to US aggression for many years.

After castigating Mr. Nixon's "three criteria for US withdrawal," the DRVN representative continued that Nixon's decision to pull out another 50,000 US troops by April 15 next year was part of the policy of drop-by-drop reduction, prolongation of the occupation of South Viet Nam by US troops and prosecution of the war. He said even if this were carried out, the rhythm of withdrawal would still remain very slow and by April next year there would remain no less than 134,000 US aggressors to continue wreaking destruction and death every day.

Rejecting Mr. Nixon's claim that a precipitate withdrawal will mean a "defeat and humiliation" for the United States, Mr. Ha Van Lau made it clear that as a matter of fact, the Vietnamese people had no intention to humiliate anybody, but they only wanted to regain genuine peace and independence for their country, to live on friendly terms with the American people and the peoples of other countries in the world. The honour of the United States would be saved by promptly putting an end to the illegal and costly war of aggression in South Viet Nam.

The DRVN envoy went on: "As far as the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people is concerned, Mr. Nixon still sets his face against the fair and reasonable principle of self-determination. He is against the NVF and the RVN PRG for the formation of a provisional coalition government which would be the basis for general elections in South Viet Nam. He also goes on arguing the maintenance of the Thien-Ky-Khiem administration, and the South

Hanoi Press Opinion

NIXON'S DECEMBER 15 ANNOUNCEMENT

MR Nixon once again tried to sell his speech for a "fair" and "just peace," a "settlement through negotiation" and if that fails, "Vietnamization of the war." He also charged the Vietnamese people, with refusing to negotiate seriously, with attempting to impose "defeat and humiliation" on the United States, and "maltreating" the American pilots captured in Viet Nam. It was obviously psychological warfare. He also made known that the US did not name a successor to Cabot Lodge at the head of the US delegation at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. In fact, it is another move in the US scheme to prolong the war. As made clear by American public opinion, the point is, not to pull out 25,000, 35,000 or 50,000 US troops. The point is that there will remain over 400,000 US troops and 60,000 troops of US satellites after the troop cut.

Concerning the "Vietnamization" of the war plan, Nixon claimed that he had got a "much more favourable report with regard to the training of South Vietnamese forces" and that US casualties "continue to be at the lowest rate," thus making it possible to effect another reduction of American combat troops. He threatened that if the South Vietnamese people stepped up the fight for self-liberation, the US "shall not hesitate to take strong and effective measures." On the other hand, Nixon promised that the US would be "flexible and forthcoming" if the Vietnamese people were willing to "talk seriously" — which means in effect to accept US absurd terms.

Mr. Nixon's December 15 address was just the playing back of an old record. It gave no indication that the US would stop its elaborate prosecution of the war and give up its neo-colonialist policy. However, the speech did draw attention to two points.

Firstly, the US President invoked Robert Thompson's

look to prove that his "Vietnamization" of the war plan was a "success."

Thompson is a British officer who helped the US to set up "strategic hamlets" in South Viet Nam and who later packed up after the US "special war" had failed. Thompson is now hired by Nixon to peddle his "Vietnamization."

Secondly, Nixon announced the reduction of 30,000 more US troops by April 15, 1970, describing it as "another orderly step in our plan for peace." In fact, it is another move in the US scheme to prolong the war. As made clear by American public opinion, the point is, not to pull out 25,000, 35,000 or 50,000 US troops. The point is that there will remain over 400,000 US troops and 60,000 troops of US satellites after the troop cut.

Meanwhile, the war continues. Impaired by the total of US expeditionary forces existing in South Viet Nam or to remain in South Viet Nam, the US troops already withdrawn or to be withdrawn only represent a small portion. When asked by a journalist on June 19 to stop to comment on US Defence Secretary C. Clifford's view that 100,000 US troops should be pulled out this year, Nixon stated that he would "beat Clifford's time-table." The fact is that in 1969 the US only pulls out 60,000 troops.

Public opinion in the United States has complained that troop cuts of the Nixonian type are "too slow and too small" (UPI, Dec. 16). The AFP Saigon correspondent reported that many GIs "ironically" commented on Nixon's address, and

Nhan Dan (The People) Dec. 17, 1969

US Crimes in North Viet Nam in November

4 p.m., eight AD-6s dropped demolition bombs and 4000 lb. carpet bombs on Huoi Pho, Huoi Lao, Cheng and Ai Khe, causing 8 casualties among the inhabitants and burning of houses and belongings. Huoi Pho was virtually gutted.

In Hai Tinh province: On Nov. 28, at 2 p.m., US aircraft strafed Huoi Son district.

In Quang Binh province: On Nov. 11, from 10.45 a.m. to noon, nine F-4s and two F-105s mounted six raids on Minh Hoa district, releasing 46 explosive bombs of various sizes and 7,800 pellet bombs. 12 people were wounded. On

Nov. 11 and 15, twelve B-52s carried out carpet bombing, pouring 360 tons of explosives on the same district; 21 casualties were recorded and a number of houses and property burnt.

In Vinh Linh area: On Nov. 10, at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., four armed helicopters strafed Minh Phuoc cooperative (Vinh Son village) with 12.7 mm and 20 mm guns, damaging some dwellings.

On Nov. 12, at 10 p.m., six B-52s carpet bombed Huong Lap village, pouring on 180 tons of explosives. On Nov. 14, 16, 17, 18, 21,

quoted an American Army sergeant as saying, "Nixon's just throwing people a bone for Christmas."

It is clear that Nixon's decision to withdraw some more troops is only political sop for home consumption, not an effort to end the war. We denounce to world public opinion the US scheme to prolong the war and the barbarous crimes committed by the US, puppet and satellite troops against the South Vietnamese people, typical of which are the bloodbaths in Son My, Huoi Lao, An, Hong H'ing and many other places. We protest against the obdurate attitude of the US Government at the Paris Conference.

The Vietnamese people's position expounded in the four points of the DRVN Government and the ten-point overall solution of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, is a principled and just one which enjoys broad sympathy and support in the world. Their serious and good-will attitude recently found further expression in the statement by Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh of the RVN PRG that in case the US accepted to withdraw from South Viet Nam "all its troops within six months, then the parties would discuss the pull-out time-table and the guarantee of security for US troops. Nixon's rejection of this proposal shows that the US is unwilling to bring home totally and unconditionally the US troops from South Viet Nam, and that instead it persists in demanding a price for such a step from the Vietnamese people.

At the combat position of Company 4, often at noon time under the blazing sun, "Big Long" is seen revolving his gun and taking a sight in the direction of the enemy. After 5 or 10 seconds, and later for 2 or 3 minutes. Meanwhile, after taking "Little Long" is busy taking

25th FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIET NAM PEOPLE'S ARMY

SCENES OF THE VNPA COMBATANTS' LIFE

The Race Is On

THE 3,300th US plane has been brought down over North Viet Nam, but the race is on between gunner No 1 Le Van Long who has taken part in 88 engagements and Nguyen Xuan Long, a spotter who has been directly involved in nearly one thousand fights with the Yankees. It is a contest of combat skill. Whereas Le Van Long or "Big Long" who insists on continuing as gunner No 1, "Big Long" has unconditionally ceased the bombardment of North Viet Nam. He did agree to take charge of the whole battery) has been active for 2 years and 7 months without receiving a single wound. "Little Long" is passionately fond of his spotting job. Over the past 4 years, both Long have been chosen to attend the annual congress of model fighters of the Song Gianh AA artillery. "Little Long" has been decorated. So has been "Big Long." "Big Long" has been unanimously elected by the unit as "determined-to-win fighter" while "Little Long" has been given the same title by the whole outfit.

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Now, the story about "Big Long" or "Little Long" has become an interesting topic for officers and men of the Song Gianh AA artillery to study. What prompted "Big Long" to accomplish his job as gunner No 1 with flying colours throughout this one-thousand-day period? Why has "Little Long" been able to spot the enemy planes (often with only his naked eye) so quickly and so accurately when they still look like tiny pinheads? All that secret should be found out.

The battle of September 8, 1967 was a case in point. Once again spotter Nguyen Xuan Long succeeded in locating the F-4's. Within seconds, the gun barrels of the unit were trained in the direction of the incoming planes. "Little Long" kept a keen eye on the moving targets. He let them in closer and closer, 15 km, 10 km, 5 km and finally within firing range. The go-signal given, the whole unit opened up. The lead plane was put down on the spot in the very rounds of ack-ack fire and its pilot captured. "Little Long" was again rated first among the family of spotters for this remarkable feat. The race is on between "Big Long" and "Little Long" who are honing their skills through training, maintaining high vigilance and standing ready at all times to wipe out the US aggressors wherever the Fatherland wants them to.

Fighters of the Song Gianh detachment have learnt a lot from this contest of battle skill. Everybody still remembers that on August 7, 1965, gunner No 1 "Big Long" used his body to cover the loading device during an attack. A little more than a month later, he again protected his wounded comrade Ho Si Duong with his own body. He likes to offer to share with civilians his foxhole when there is an alert. During an alert, he always moved all the 30 munition cases off the water-logged area, and always he continued to have a good sleep.

pirate is. Hurry up, mate!" no sooner had she said than a lighted signal was sent up by the enemy, revealing the "pirate's hiding place." Mun shouted, "In fact, Mun saw him behind an elevated ricefield dyke. She fired up a shot and cried, 'Hands up!' when her mates roared in. She fired the pirate and collected his paraphernalia.

In our spring 1968, when the general offensives and concerted uprisings took place in the South, Mun was entrusted by the Party local committee with the task of commanding a militia company unit which had had many engagements with enemy planes but could shoot down none. Her fighters required not only courage but intelligence, technique and a good command. Mun said to herself, She was a woman of various types of American aircraft made to study appropriate ways of firing fighter-bombers and dis-bombing jets.

One afternoon, taking advantage of a cloudy sky, she led the first team of fighters; the leading one fired some rockets which exploded a dozen metres above the enemy. A lot of dust and smoke. Mun

All the inhabitants were bubbling over with joy. Old Chen had just returned from the gun emplacement. The sounds of moving artillery pieces were heard more audible at this moment. Resolute Fighter" title for years running.

Cultural and Artistic Activities at Anti-Aircraft Automatic Gun Company S.

COMPANY S. is as good in combat as it is in cultural and artistic activities. When preparing for an operation, the company is not only painstakingly sees to its weaponry and food supplies, but also carefully plans its cultural and artistic activities in the field. In the men's packs there are also bamboo flutes, and makeshift mandolins, and books, everything kept in good shape. It seems these things lighten the lumpy packs. Merry songs help quicken the pace of the fighting men going up the line. Even under rains of bombs and shells, the combatants' mood remains gay and cheerful.

Once a platoon cut down an enemy plane in the very first rounds of automatic weapons fire, The Truong Cong Chinh, Ban Thi Sy and others, immediately tore a bit of paper off munition cases and sat writing a flash report on their keen, their backs gleaming against the gun tripod. The Front's news bulletin. Between two battles, the men used to gather around the gun tripod to hear An Van Tan recite poems composed on the spot about the successes of the gunners.

Hardly had the unit ended a daring engagement when Tien Duc wrote a short play

entitled "Hillside Position" in praise of the seek-and-destroy spirit.

Cultural and artistic activities have become one of the criteria they strive to achieve in the company emulation drive. Every platoon has its own wall-paper which can be rolled up and moved from place to place. Activists from 3-man teams, squads and platoons have been gathered to form a company's cultural and artistic groups. In this way, after each action, the company has been able to offer a substantial program of entertainments. The unit has also resplendently reviews, rehearsing with combat experience and introducing its exemplary men and deeds.

The booklet "For Peace and Independence" and stories about model fighters and deeds have been read and re-read and discussions held in every outfit. Good examples are commended in time and multiplied incessantly.

Every gun outfit has its own portable book-case with 6 or 7 books which are passed from hand to hand in the combat position.

Songs have never ceased resounding at Company S's position, playing a share in the unit's successes.



"The people are to the army what water is to the fish" goes a saying.

THE OLD MAN OF THE GUN EMPLACEMENT

It was late in the night. Old Chen had just returned from the gun emplacement. The sounds of moving artillery pieces were heard more audible at this moment. Resolute Fighter" title for years running.

he rushed out, with a hurricane-lamp. No sooner had he reached the highway than the conveyance of gun-... to a ship. The company leader the army men were coming.

(Continued page 7)

SON MY CRIME CONDEMNED BY CAMBODIAN ROYAL GOVERNMENT

(December 13, 1969 statement)

THE Royal Government of Cambodia was pleased to learn that the US Government, under pressure of public opinion, admitted for the first time that US troops were responsible for the war crime at Son My (South Viet Nam). The extermination of 500 defenceless Vietnamese civilians, including women and children, can thus be listed after the atrocities condemned twenty years ago by the Nuremberg Tribunal.

It should be recalled however that the Son My massacre was preceded and followed by other killings of civilians still kept in the dark to date, and that thousands of women and children were and are still murdered by US troops. To these war crimes are also added terrorist air raids, sprayings of toxic chemicals, etc. imputable to the US total war of destruction in Viet Nam.

The Royal Government still hopes that all countries in the world and great international organizations will succeed in persuading the American rulers to put an end to the war of savagery that the war of aggression in Viet Nam is. It points out on this occasion that Cambodia is also a victim and recalls the systematic murder of four Cambodian peasants—men, women and children—by helicopter pilots on June 29, 1968 at Svay A Ngon, the sprayings of toxic chemicals at Mimot in April and May 1969, and the recent murderous attack on Dak Dam post and locality.

At the present juncture, the Royal Government cannot give the slightest credit to the professions of peace of the US government, which are utterly at variance with daily truth. Only a complete withdrawal of US aggressive forces from Viet Nam and respect of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of the Indo-Chinese people will show US sincerity.

The title speaks for itself. "The Crime on Hill 102" because on the maps of the American staff, this is the name of a woody peak in the High Plateaux where the four G.I.s lost their victim with multiple stab wounds and her skull shattered by bullets. And it is their denouncer—the fifth soldier who participated in the patrol and witnessed the events of horror has broken his silence to the American press which he had kept for two years for fear of vengeance against himself, his wife and his child. It is because he had been tormented by remorse.

Published in a great magazine last week, "The Crime on Hill 102" has horrified the Americans, not only by its atrocious content but also because it reveals the mentality of an army where, from officers to privates, the rank-and-file, none has blamed the crime which they considered "a necessary evil" of "no importance" and where pressures and menaces, veiled or not, were used against the "denouncer".

"Your accusations," the captain told him, "risk to blench the image of the army at the very moment when the latter is facing combat dangers. The enemy will not fail to make use of the affair for his propaganda."

In spite of this and other things, the soldier Erikson, the pseudonym he adopted when he gave his famous account—persisted in demanding justice for the dead. We Germans, including Bonn, Aachen, Göttingen, Dortmund and Paderborn, have followed him.

Back today in his native Minnesota where he has resumed his former career as a carpenter, Erikson knows what still may cost

him this conscience and what nasty things it has brought him in addition to the ostracism and disapproval from his comrades and superiors, he narrowly escaped a "mistaken fire" from an American patrol which, as if by chance, included one of the four participants involved in "the crime on Hill 102" before the four were arrested.

Written in plain terms, Erikson's version revolts the conscience of Americans since the affair took place in South Viet Nam and little Phan Thi Mao, 18 years old, was an ally of the whom, precisely, the American army is supposed to protect and defend against the "horrors of the invasion from the North".

On November 16, 1966, Erikson related the sergeant, tenant detailed him and three of his buddies and a five-day reconnaissance patrol in Long Son valley.

To his great astonishment, Erikson heard the sergeant declare: "We're going to seek a girl and take her away. It is good for the morale of the soldier."

Erikson thought it a joke. But the following morning, when the patrol set out, he saw that the sergeant went not in the direction of the valley but to the south, to a miserable Cat Tuong hamlet. There, always under the sergeant's command, the three young Vietnamese clung to the feet of the soldiers. The latter quickly tied Mao's hands behind her back and half-carried her away. The man screaming after them, holding a kerchief of the young girl in his hand.

"Thanks," said one of the soldiers ironically when the mother caught up with them, "they've been waiting for you in the mouth of the young girl to silence her. Exhausted, the mother fell to the ground. The patrol left with the captive."

Then began hours of march during which the sergeant hung his heavy package to the frail shoulders of the young girl as if she had been a donkey. The team finally came to an abandoned small hut. The five soldiers ate and drank. Erikson, who was given nothing to eat, was inside.

GI Denounces Another Crime of His Buddies

The French paper France Soir published on October 29 the following story: "The raping, then murdering of a young South Vietnamese by four US soldiers is shocking America."

An atrocious story is shocking the Americans. It is about a young South Vietnamese beaten, raped and finally murdered by an American patrol. The report was put out by the magazine New Yorker following the confession by one member of this patrol...

The rape and murder of a young South Vietnamese girl by four American soldiers—whom she called "the boys" who came to pick her up as an animal in a hut where she was sleeping with her parents, forced her to join their patrol, made her carry their package, abused her for 24 hours, and then murdered her in cold blood "so that she does not speak out"—will eventually become the subject of a film some day.

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Revolutionary Rule...

(Continued from page 3)

the enemy enslaving education and corrupt culture.

Literature, arts, information and press in the liberated zone have also made good progress. Many artistic and literary works of various kinds have appeared. Artists and painters have been advancing by leaps and bounds. Many of these achievements have won encouraging successes abroad.

This brief account shows that revolutionary power in South Viet Nam is a mighty force as it springs from the people and enjoys their strong support. Its present achievements foretell future ones, more important still both in combat and construction.

The Old Man of the Gun Emplacement

(Continued from page 3)

slighted from a carriage and warmly said, "Well Dad, not yet gone to bed?"

"No, like everyone in the village, we are waiting for you."

Then, Old Chuan took the company leader for a round of the gun emplacement to see the work.

Some time earlier, when it was first built, the gunners had had to go and fetch fuel from the village. They were busy with their fighting job. Seeing that, Old Chuan approached, other village men and raised the problem.

"We must plant as many trees as we can to keep the gun site shady and refreshing and to make the soldiers more time to relax so that they can fight over more effectively."

Everybody agreed with him. Next day Old Chuan went about urging villagers to plant banana and lemongrass trees and other green stuffs to the combat position. The free time of the village's old folk even contributed saplings of firetrees and sandalwood from their nursery.

From that day, Old Chuan was seen everyday at the gun site. On hot days, he watered the banana trees and firetrees. After a rain, he drained off the water to save the plants from water logging and made the gun emplacement dry and clean. He also kept communication trenches in good condition.

More than 400 battles had been fought at this position. In everyone of them, he was present right at the start.

Any unit which had fought at this gun emplacement treated him as a hero. He was known as the "Old man of the gun emplacement."

Every time, our old man answered with pleasure. He was always saying that, "I try to bag many more planes. That's all that you have to do. We'll look after the gun emplacement just as our own houses."

Day in day out, Old Chuan saw to it that the place was tidy and in good order just as he took care of his own orchard. Hundreds of banana trees grew luxuriantly. Many had borne fruit. Rows of firetrees and sandalwood already cast their shade over foot-troops. Shoots began to sprout at dozens of bamboo groves.

People's armed forces feel most deeply indebted to their vanguard Party and venerated Comrade Ho Chi Minh, their great leader. He is no more, Uncle Ho, our beloved teacher and father who showed such deep solicitude for them, who guided and educated them from their birth to their maturity, but the incomparable example and the solicited teachings he has bequeathed us will remain for ever in our hearts in order to be worthy of his immense work and of his boundless affection, our people's love, the resistance to US aggression, for national salvation, and to bring it to total victory while carrying out satisfactorily the building of socialism, never deviating from the glorious path of the Party and President Ho Chi Minh.

Before the radiant future of the Vietnamese Revolution, our people and our

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News from LAOS

PF MEMORANDUM ON US CROWDING USE OF "SPECIAL FORCES"

THE Laotian Patriotic Front has recently issued a memorandum on the accelerated formation and use by the US imperialists of "Special Forces" in their war of aggression in Laos.

The memorandum recalls that after the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Laos, implementing their traditional "divide and rule" policy, the US imperialists urged the Vietnamese to create the "Lao Autonomous Region", the "Kao I Dang Autonomous Region", etc. They also gave orders to tribal chieftains to use modern weapons to the highlanders to fight the revolution, and persuaded the mountain dwellers into an army called "Special Forces".

The US imperialists have made the bandit Yang Pao "leader" of the Lao nationality and "commander in chief" of the "Special Forces". The equipment, training, command and marshalling of forces of that army are assumed by American officers themselves.

Denouncing US interference in Laos' affairs, Senator Fulbright, Chairman of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, said that the US had defrayed 10 million dollars a year to prop up the Laotian clandestine army.

From bandit gangs and commandos led by the French colonialists, the "Special Forces" have gradually become an army several tens of thousands strong with a complete set-up and commanding system. Senator Fulbright revealed that the "Special Forces" had 36,000 men divided into 30 battalions called "special divisions", "voluntary battalions", "clandestine army", "mobile groups". Besides, this army is composed of special commando units which the US imperialists have introduced in the patriotic forces' free areas to spot bombing targets and give help to downed American pilots.

Thousands of bandits and commandos for sabotage missions have been trained in Thailand, Japan and the US. Many US and Thai mixed commando groups have been responsible for their training and command.

On the US imperialists' orders, the Thai and South Vietnamese commandos coordinate their actions with those of the "Special Forces" in spying on and sabotaging the Patriotic Front's bases, chiefly the areas bordering on Viet Nam.

The memorandum denounces that all the "Special Forces" in Laos have been

placed under the US special supreme command of HQ 333 in Udon. They are not under the command of the US war machine in Vietnam. This special supreme command has its representation near Yang Pao at Long Cheng, HQ and refuge of the "Special Forces" in Laos, and also near the HQ of the "second military sector" nominally "commanded" by Yang Pao. Long Cheng, an area entirely kept secret, has been built by the US imperialists and turned into capital city of the so-called "Lao nationality".

One of the cardinal roles of the "Special Forces" is to launch attacks and operations of encirclement on the free areas and set up military bases from which sabotage actions can be mounted by the US and its lackeys.

Pa Thi, one of the most important bases before its capture by the "Special Forces", was built and

In the USA

3rd Moratorium Against Viet Nam War

A new campaign of protest against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam and for an immediate and total withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam has flared up in many cities of the United States.

Meetings, demonstrations, talks, public discussions, special religious services, readings of the names of the killed in Viet Nam, distributions of leaflets against the war, and collections of funds for peace organizations, have been held in many parts of the country.

Organizers of the third moratorium did not plan to stage mammoth meetings and parades in big cities like the two previous occasions in October and November. They instead intended to focus the movement geographically so as to cover as many localities and people as possible.

A demonstration under the motto "Withdraw immediately all US troops from Viet Nam" took place on December 12 in Portland (Oregon). An important group of federal functionaries staged an anti-war meeting in Washington. In Cincinnati (Ohio), the participants in a

meeting observed a minute of silence in memory of all victims of US aggression in Viet Nam.

Also on December 12, anti-war protesters in Washington declared a one-day hunger strike. Many Harvard University students were on hunger-strike yesterday and today. Teachers and professors of primary and secondary schools in the USA went to classes on December 12 with mourning armbands.

Students of the Syracuse University (New York) have collected signatures to an appeal for an end to that dirty war.

A candle procession took place in New York, followed by a festival for peace, during which many participants spoke against the US policy in Viet Nam.

Also on December 12, painters in New York inaugurated an exhibition whose antiwar would go to the "Anti-war messages and letters" have been pouring endlessly into the US administration offices and various papers' editorial boards.

On December 13, participants in the Congress of Young Democrats' Clubs in

Las-Vegas (Nevada) called for the pulling out of all US troops out of South Viet Nam. Addressing Congress, Senator E. Muskie criticized Nixon for "turning his back" on the demands of US opinion for an end to the Viet Nam war.

On the same day, at the gathering of more than 1,000 anti-war protesters in New York, Mayor Lindsay said: "For the sake of our children, for the sake of our country, we must get out of this wretched war right now."

On December 14, war dissenting groups called a demonstration in Chicago's Grant Park against the Viet Nam war and the Son My slaughter by US troops.

In Tucson (Arizona), students of the University of Arizona appeared at mass churches and synagogues to distribute anti-war literature. Bill White, Vice-President of the local students' organization, said some students also planned to fast from next Saturday through December 24 to protest the continued US involvement in Viet Nam.

A Bonn report said the demonstration in Heidelberg was most violent, 300 demonstrators attacked the America House and the American Express Bank.

At Cambridge, Massachusetts, about 2,300 Harvard and Radcliffe students were

to end a 30-hour fast.

Renter reported that anti-war activities took place in other parts of the USA. People invited their neighbours in to talk about the war. Leaflets were distributed. Only small marches, vigils and candle processions held.

On December 13, more than 100 anti-war protesters and other nationals in Hong-kong staged a vigil protest against the Viet Nam war at the American consulate. They held up placards and banners with slogans urging the US government to stop the Viet Nam war.

The protest action was sponsored by the American Nam war and the Hongkong International Committee against the war in Viet Nam.

While the anti-war campaign was spreading across the United States, demonstrations also took place in West Germany, including Bonn, Aachen, Göttingen, Dortmund and Paderborn.

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On December 13, more than 100 anti-war protesters and other nationals in Hong-kong staged a vigil

Revolutionary Rule Keeps on Consolidating and Developing

At present, four-fifths of South Viet Nam with 11 million people are under the revolutionary rule which has established itself in 41 provinces and towns, over 190 districts and 1,300 villages among South Viet Nam's 1600 big cities like Saigon, Hue, Dalat, Da Nang, Can Tho. They already have their people's revolutionary administration and popular power is spreading to disputed areas or in areas controlled by the enemy. In some committees the proportion of woman members reaches up to 40 or even 50 per cent.

This extension of revolutionary power has thrown panic among the US-puppets who vainly seek to destroy or discredit this power which comes from the people, comes from them and works for them. Under its guidance the people are fighting, intensifying production, building and developing their revolutionary forces and improving their living conditions.

In particular, revolutionary power guarantees to the peasantry the ownership of their land. Up to now, about 2 million hectares of South Viet Nam's tilled land out of nearly 4.5 million have been definitively or temporarily distributed.

Irrigation work of dams, canals, building of ditches, have been developed, uniting the motto "No waste land, no landless peasant", the

peasantry eagerly tackles with farming and in several parts of the country, like the Mekong Delta, it has obtained a better yield: 3 to 4 tons of paddy per hectare for one crop, and even 6 to 10 tons in some places.

Animal husbandry, handicraft, by-trades, the manufacture and repair of agricultural implements have blossomed. Several villages in Central Trung Bo have reached the target set for stockbreeding (2 pigs and 4 fowls per family). In some provinces of the Mekong Delta, each family has one pig and 40 fowls in an average. In others, there are up to 10,000 fish ponds.

The revolutionary power has also granted credit to the peasants, supplied them with production means and provided help to the victims of natural calamities and war. With regard to the ethnic minorities it has adequately catered for their needs in salt and staple consumer goods.

A kind of "communal charter" has been established in the villages of the liberated zone, setting the citizen's obligations and duties in the management of public affairs.

The preservation and amelioration of the public health enjoys constant care from revolutionary power. Today the liberated zone is endowed

with a sanitary network which extends from the centre down to the hamlets, with an increasing staff of medical workers who are at the same time fighters against the US aggressors and puppets, and with laboratories capable of making out of local material Eastern specialties and Western specialties such as Vitamins B1, C and B12, Filatov, serum, neovacin, anaesthetics, antibiotics. Particular importance has been attached to prophylaxis.

Education has made headway. Despite countless difficulties the people's power has set up a comprehensive system of classes from literacy up to secondary ones with a unified syllabus. Regular education for children goes along with popular education for grown ups. The teaching personnel increases with every passing day. More than 90 per cent of school-age children go to school. Every year from 80 to 90 per cent and sometimes all children are admitted to higher classes or successfully pass their year-end exams. Numerous are those who have become "gallant fighters" against US aggression or puppet domination while studying. 17 national minorities now have their own scripts. Education in the liberated areas has also actively contributed to check

(Continued page 7)

Puppet Nguyen Van Thieu's Frenzied Clamour

It is reported from Saigon that, on December 9, 10 and 12, 1969, puppet President Nguyen Van Thieu blasted his opponents as "communists" and "neutralists" and threatened to behead them. He called them "cowards" and "ignoramus" who had upheld a policy of "compromise" and opted a political settlement.

His frenzied reaction was to cope with his political predicament created by the mounting opposition of his adversaries, chiefly of the townswalks, to his policy of serving Nixon's war prolongation. *I/P* reported on Dec. 2 that the Students' General Association in Saigon had sent to American students a letter welcoming their anti-Viet Nam war actions and protesting against the U.S. "Vietnamization" policy in which Vietnamese were set against Vietnamese.

The Saigon students demanded that US troops be completely withdrawn so that sovereignty and freedom could be restored to South Viet Nam. The *Giai Phong* press correspondent in Saigon reported that supported by other sections of the people in their action against the sequel of the prolongation of the war, the students had set up a "Committee for the Defence of the Citizens Right to Live" and launched a campaign against gutter culture and for the rehabilitation of the national culture. In a teach-in on Dec. 3 attended also by many politicians, the Saigon academic circles came out against the puppet rulers' impoverishment of the people and gagging of the press.

The same correspondent said that at a Conference held at the end of Novem-

ber, the Buddhist delegates had exposed the Saigon junta's terror against the Buddhists and suppression of the freedom of belief. At this gathering, Superior Benzue Thich Thien Hoa, Chairman of the Buddhist Institute for Religious Affairs, affirmed that the policy of Buddhism was to save the country and restore peace. He flayed Thieu-Ky-Huong's misuse of the nation and people, hanging on war and lending foreign aid to pile up death and destruction and to impose neo-colonialism on the Vietnamese people. He also expressed the firm belief that however powerful the US might be, it would be defeated by the Vietnamese, the war would come to an end and the traitors to the country would be condemned by history.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

FIRST TEN DAYS OF DECEMBER

THE PLAF RUSHED MANY POSITIONS INSIDE THE ENEMY DEFENCE PERIMETER AND FOUGHT OFF MANY ENEMY SWEEPS

ENEMY DEFENCE AT-TACKED EVERYWHERE

The highlights of PLAF actions were the attacks on the enemy in the Mekong Delta, Southwest of Saigon, where from Dec. 1 to 20, eight provincial capitals including My Tho, Can Tho and Ben Tre, as well as many other smaller urban centres, came under fire.

In My Tho, Ben Tre and Kien Tuong provinces, apart from the assaults on the night from December 2 to 3 already mentioned in our previous issue, *Giai Phong* Press Agency has reported further onsets on December 10 which brought the enemy losses in these provinces to ten companies wiped out or decimated, a police CP destroyed, 200 members of the "pacification" teams and 100 puppet militiamen and 15 cannons, mortars and machineguns put out of action and 3 helicopters shot down.

In three other Mekong Delta provinces, Rach Gia, Ca Mau and An Giang, from December 1 to 6, 3 puppet companies including one of the Marines were knocked out or depleted, 150 puppet troops disabled, two war vessels sunk.

On the Northwestern front of Saigon, in Tay Ninh province, 500 enemy casualties were reported and 15 helicopters shot down between November 30 to December 4. An artillery unit composed of young women twice pounded at a base-camp of the 2nd Brigade of the *Tropic Lightning* Division, exacting a toll of 134 GIs, blasting out of commission 11 helicopters and 6 military vehicles and blotting out an arms depot.

Further to the East, near Bu Dop, 130 adverse men were put out of action and 1 aircraft including 1 jet shot down on December 3 during two battles.

Closer to Saigon, at 52 km West-southwest of the city, the *Duc Hue* camp of the "Special Forces" were heavily shelled on December 7 and 8, and 1 logging carrier, 1 truck wrecked. In Saigon itself, the guerrillas on Dec. 8 struck at the police station of the 6th district and a bridge on the city outskirts. In the district of Cu Chi (32 km Northwest of Saigon)

famous for the exploits of its guerrillas, the latter put out of action 50 enemy soldiers and 8 military vehicles between Dec. 2 and 7.

At 153 km East of Saigon, the CP of the Phan Thiet military sector, the rear-base of the 44th puppet Regiment, a battalion and a contingent of the US armoured forces near the town were raided from Dec. 2 to 4. The PLAF inflicted 240 casualties, destroyed 17 vehicles and 5 cannons. A hundred kilometres to the Northeast, on December 3 the patriots wrote off the motorroll a company of puppet militia.

Further to the North, a company of the 47th puppet Regiment and 3 militia squads took heavy losses 300 km Southeast of Da Nang, while in the area close to the 17th parallel, in the first ten days of December the patriots destroyed 2 helicopters downed and 17 vehicles destroyed.

ENEMY SWEEPS
BEATEN OFF

In the Mekong Delta, on December 1, air waves of enemy attacks were repelled at a place 170 km Southwest of Saigon in the province of An Giang. A hundred puppet troops were killed or wounded during these actions. On Dec. 10, near Tuyen Bieh, 05 km West-northwest of Saigon, an enemy patrol was engaged in heavy fighting, losing a company of "Rangers" and a squad of puppet scouts.

In Ben Tre province, on December 3, the PLAF assailed 5 puppet companies and struck off the strength or decimated four others at Biech Dai, 55 km South of Saigon.

Enemy naval patrols were hit in the Mekong Delta and four vessels sent to the bottom on two rivers.

Motorized columns of the enemy were intercepted on the various roads near Bu Dop and Hoa Quan, North of Saigon, and 13 vehicles were destroyed in the same sector.

On the Western High Plateau, an armoured squadron of the puppet 3rd Regiment fell into an ambush north of Pleiku and was forced to turn back after losing ten vehicles destroyed.